

ANNUAL REPORT

1958.

On the Health of the
Rural Sanitary District
of the
Isle of Wight



BY

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ANNUAL REPORT
on the
HEALTH OF THE RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT
of the
ISLE OF WIGHT.

County Hall,
Newport,
Isle of Wight.
Tel: Newport 2261.

To the Members of the Isle of Wight Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1958.

The Birth Rate rose from 12.0 to 13.1. The Stillbirth Rate rose from 18.7 to 25.4 but with such small figures involved the rise is not of great significance. The Death Rate also rose from 13.3 to 14.6. The Infantile Mortality Rate rose from 9.5 to 26.1. The number of deaths from cancer fell from 48 to 38 of which lung cancer accounted for only 2 deaths. Deaths from cancer of the breast fell to 2. Heart disease was certified as the cause of death in 90 cases. During the year 2 cases of suicide were reported. This year there was a cyclical outbreak of measles, 145 cases being notified. There were no deaths due to this disease.

Vaccination against smallpox is a free, life-saving, procedure which appears to be increasingly neglected. The primary vaccination rate for infants is seriously low. As a consequence of national indifference towards vaccinations, probably less than half the adult population will, in the near future, be actively protected against smallpox and, consequently, vulnerable if an epidemic should break out.

There seems to be some confusion in the public mind in respect of the term "vaccination". In the old days "vaccination" almost always referred to the procedure carried out for the prevention of smallpox. If one was vaccinated it meant that one had been protected against this disease only. Now, however, to simply ask a person if he has been vaccinated means little. In consequence of the advances in immunizing processes one can now be vaccinated, among other diseases, to be protected against Smallpox, Whooping Cough, Poliomyelitis, Typhoid, Paratyphoid Fever, and Tuberculosis. One should therefore have a card showing one's personal individual immunization history, always available, in the manner of the war-time identity card.

The scope of such a record might usefully be enlarged with such additional information, where appropriate, as "diabetic", "Sensitive to penicillin", etc.

On Tuesday, June 3rd, 1958, in a large holiday camp in the Rural District, about 70 people became ill with one or all of the following symptoms. Vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, faintness and shivering. The affected persons included several members of the staff. Enquiries concerning food consumed at the camp on Monday, June 2nd, did not indicate any specific item likely to be a possible cause of the sickness.

All the campers had the same meals but only 70 out of 550 became ill, and only 52 were officially notified. The standard of cleanliness and general kitchen hygiene as well as the personal hygiene of the food handlers was high, the resident proprietor and his wife taking a keen personal interest in the catering side of the business. Food storage facilities and refrigeration were good. Monday, June 2nd, was a very wet day and most of the campers stayed within the camp premises.

However, a party of 60 took part in a coach tour round the Island, and did not have lunch in the camp. Some of this party became ill and so did several of the camp staff who lived out and had consumed no food at all on the premises.

In one case three girls were occupying the same chalet and had identical meals yet only one suffered from any sickness. Bacteriological samples of vomit and stools were all negative. All the affected persons made a rapid uneventful recovery.

The popularity of camping and caravans for holidays continues to increase and on the whole the standard of the sites is good. Side by side with the growth of this form of holiday accommodation there is also increasing development of holiday camps. The best of these camps set a very high standard of food hygiene and all round kitchen cleanliness. This of course is greatly in the interests of the camps, as any food-borne illness is liable to spread rapidly on account of the extent of communal feeding.

Nothing is more ruinous of a holiday than an attack of enteritis, and the camp owners do well to ensure that every possible step is taken to reach the highest standards in the preparation, storage and serving of foods.

An unofficial Island body has laid down the following standards for its members in respect of sites for caravan parks for holiday use only.

Each application must be considered by the appropriate Authorities under the Town Planning and Public Health Acts.

PART I

1. *Entrance to site :*

The entrance and exits to all sites should be of a minimum width of 12 feet and should be so designed as to permit the easy passage of fire fighting equipment including fire engine, etc.

(a) There should be adequate visibility from the entrance adjoining the roadway in both directions.

(b) The entrance should, so far as practicable, be away from any bends or corners in the adjoining roadway.

(c) There should be, so far as practicable, a sufficient space inside the entrance for vehicles to turn round on the site, so as to avoid reversing into the roadway.

2. *Signs :*

A sign containing the official name of the site and of a suitable size shall be prominently displayed at the Entrance of each site—such sign to conform with the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations.

3. *Density :*

(a) The total number of caravans to be stationed on any site at any one time shall not exceed 15 to the acre calculated on the effective area of the Site (as defined in Sub-paragraph (b) hereof).

(b) The area of the site upon which the number of caravans calculated at a maximum of 15 per acre, and stationed at least 20 feet apart is to be based, shall exclude any steeply sloping land or any area of land subject to flood or subsidence.

(c) An area of reasonably level open space suitable for recreational purposes or ornamental gardens shall be provided, and shall comprise at least one third of an acre for every 15 caravans on the Site.

4. *Type of Caravan to be used :*

The use of the land as a caravan site shall mean its use as pitching for genuine trailer caravans specially built for use as trailer caravans which shall be kept in a good state of repair and external decoration and weatherproof and shall comply with the requirements of the Road Traffic Acts and

Regulations thereunder. No railway, vehicle, tramcar, omnibus or aeroplane fuselage or similar structure whether on wheels or not and howsoever adapted shall be stationed on the site.

5. *Fire Precautions :*

Fire fighting equipment shall be provided to the requirements of the Fire Prevention Officer for the district in which the site is situate and must be left at all times properly maintained.

6. *First Aid :*

First Aid equipment should be provided on a standard similar to that normally provided for factories, and should consist of kits made up for dealing with the maximum number of people living on the site. There should be a list of all local doctors, together with their telephone numbers and that of the ambulance stations.

7. *Water :*

Water stand-pipes with an adequate supply of water shall be provided within a maximum distance of 100 yards from each caravan : each such stand-pipe shall be provided with a drain inlet underneath each stand-pipe, and with a paved area of not less than 6 feet square, sloped to drain into the inlet.

8. *Sanitation :*

All sites shall be provided with flush toilets at a scale of one toilet to five caravans and each block of toilets shall, where possible, contain a handbasin and Butlers sink. Such flush toilets shall be connected either to main drainage or to a septic tank or sewage disposal unit, approved by the Local Authority in whose area the site is situate. Toilets must at all times be kept clean and wholesome and provided with artificial lighting.

9. *Refuse disposal :*

Refuse bins of a type approved by the Local Authority in whose area the site is situate shall be provided at a scale of one to three caravans and must, while the caravans are occupied, be emptied daily and all combustible material therein burned daily on the site in an isolated position approved by the Local Authority.

10. *Waste Water Disposal :*

Ultimate disposal of waste water shall be by connection to the public sewer : private disposal unit : conservancy system or soakaways as approved by the Local Authority.

11. *Winter Storage :*

Where caravans are sited on hard standings (as defined below) the caravans remain on such sites throughout the year.

12. *Hard Standing :*

Where practicable hard standing and pathways shall be provided. "Hard standing" is defined as being 4 inches of concrete or such other specification as may be approved by the County Council of a size of 4 feet wider and 4 feet longer than the size of the caravan placed on it.

SITE STANDARDS FOR CARAVAN PARKS FOR RESIDENTIAL USE ; PART II.

The Rules contained in Part I above shall apply to caravan parks for residential use in addition to the undermentioned Rules but in those cases where the Rules conflict the undermentioned Rules shall prevail.

13. *Caravan pitches :*

All caravans shall be sited in hard standing (as defined above).

14. *Roads :*

(a) Paths or roads shall be provided to give access for pedestrians and vehicles respectively to all caravans.

(b) A road or path is defined as being a pathway of sufficient width and so treated as to provide for the passage of vehicles and or pedestrians respectively throughout the year without inconvenience.

15. *Lighting :*

Artificial lighting shall be provided for the convenience of all occupiers.

16. *Refuse Disposal :*

Refuse bins of a type approved by the Local Authority in whose area the site is situate shall be provided at a scale of one for each caravan, and must, while the caravans are occupied, be emptied daily and all combustible material therein burned daily on the site in an isolated position approved by the Local Authority.

17. *Management of site :*

A site warden or manager will live permanently on the site for the proper maintenance and control thereof.

18. *Laundry facilities :*

Facilities for the washing of clothes shall be provided on each site for the use of the residents. Suitable provision will also be made for the drying of clothes.

19. *Bathing facilities :*

Suitable provision shall be made for hot water baths or shower baths for the use of residents.

In my Annual Report of 1952 I drew attention to the existence of *Brucella Abortus* in raw milk in certain cases. While examining samples of the milk from herds to exclude tuberculosis, brucella infection of the milk is revealed from time to time.

Infection of milk with *brucella abortus* can, and sometimes does, produce infection in humans who consume the milk. Epidemiological studies have shown that a proportion of human beings who consume milk from infected sources become themselves infected, with and without symptoms. The disease in man is relatively mild, and the symptoms produced are similar to many common medical conditions.

Man may acquire the disease either directly or indirectly from infected animals and experts believe, from the result of intensive study, that contact with infected animals plays a much more important role in infection than does the consumption of contaminated raw milk supplies. A curious phenomenon in human brucellosis is the comparative high resistance of young children to infection.

I must repeat that although the intake of contaminated milk has on a national scale led to a significant number of cases of human infection, it is a minor cause of the disease.

The majority of cases are due to direct contact with infected animals. It is therefore primarily an occupational disease involving farmers, veterinary surgeons, employees of abattoirs, etc.

The fact remains however that raw cows' milk may contain germs capable of causing human illness. Although free from tuberculosis, raw milk may contain the germs of scarlet fever and septic sore throat, diphtheria, typhoid, gastro-enteritis, dysentery and infectious hepatitis in addition to *brucella*. The safest milk is therefore tuberculin tested *AND* pasteurized.

But it must be remembered that raw milk with a high bacterial count will not pasteurize as well as a clean milk. So far as brucellosis is concerned, infected animals should be removed from the herd and contaminated premises should be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected.

In addition, appropriate immunizations should be carried out upon the livestock.

By reason of its insular position it should be possible with the goodwill and co-operation of all concerned to eradicate the disease entirely from Island herds.

From time to time complaints are received about milk bottles being dirty both inside and out. There have also been complaints about the failure of collection of empty milk bottles over comparatively long periods of time. All complaints have been followed up but there is no doubt that the position gives rise to some cause for anxiety. It will be a great step forward when disposable milk containers are introduced.

It is a great pity that prevailing fashions in footwear, which have a great impact on the very young teen-ager, produce such devastating and often permanent damage to their foot comfort. A large proportion of girls suffer from blistered, painful feet with skin so eroded that the feet bleed. If the type of shoes worn were compulsory, there would seem to be grounds for an action for cruelty ; as it is, this self-inflicted torture is stoically borne and the seeds are sown for permanent foot trouble.

Far too many shoes are of poor fit if not entirely bad fits. The growing toes are squeezed into an unnatural compact mass and the back of the heels grows ugly with hardened skin from constant erosion.

In certain cases the high thin heels throw the whole body out of balance so that the gait is grotesque and the posture becomes progressively worse.

The world of shoe styling has a great deal to answer for in the damage inflicted on growing feet. The early teens are a time of great inner stress and emotional developments. To be out of fashion is to be beyond the pale. Even the

wisest and strongest parents have a constant battle to ensure the physical welfare of their girls in the face of the dictates of fashion and style.

With the dramatic decline in the incidence of infectious diseases more and more attention is being directed to a group of diseases which are presenting themselves on an increasing scale. These conditions not only affect a single victim but involve one or more members of a family or indeed a whole family. Apart from the subjective misery and suffering caused by mental illnesses they constitute a severe drain on the national economy from lost man-hours of work, from degradation of standard of work, from medical services and accommodation required for that treatment and from the expensive drugs prescribed.

Any prevention of mental illness is a step of great magnitude but as in all disease which is prevented it is difficult to assess, with any accuracy, the exact extent of the prevention. There is little glamour in preventing disease. Dramatic treatment of illness is more stirring to most people. And perhaps because of this, funds are more readily available for the treatment of illness than with its prevention. In considering the prevention of mental ill health it is becoming increasingly clear that the present policy of keeping children with their parents, however unsatisfactory they are as parents, is doing far greater harm to the mental health of the children than any postulated harm done by separation.

Perhaps the greatest opportunity for the prevention of mental ill-health lies in the field of Child Psychiatry which has as its aim primarily the prevention of mental ill health in the adult by solving emotional disturbances in childhood.

It has been wisely pointed out that when the personality is damaged the child becomes disturbed, he in turn becomes the disturbed adolescent, who in turn becomes the disturbed adult, who becomes the disturbed parent. Then it is these

disturbed parents who are the people most likely to create disturbances in their children. So illness is perpetuated. The main mental health problem in prevention is how to break the vicious circle.

I would like to point out that this Council, by its wise and progressive housing policy, have played, and are still playing a most important role in the prevention of some of the commonest mental illnesses, especially those forms which are induced or aggravated by unsatisfactory housing conditions.

Especially in those distressing cases, which for want of a better name, are known as problem families, help in the form of housing has been found again and again.

May I once again record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their unfailing understanding of the problems which face the department throughout the year, and to Messrs. C. V. Smith and L. J. Lewis and their staff for their loyalty and diligence. I would also like to thank Mr. W. G. Clarke, my Secretary, for his unfailing help throughout the year and who has given great assistance in compiling this Report.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN MILLS,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1958.

Medical Officer of Health : —

John Mills, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (Eng.),
L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.

Public Health Inspectors :—

G. V. Smith, M.R.S.H., M.A.R.D.C.S.
L. J. Lewis, A.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar General's figures)	17,560
Area (in acres)	58,127
Number of habitable houses end of 1958	6,721
Rateable Value, as at 1st April, 1958	£234,800
Sum represented by a penny rate (1957-58)	£892

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	13.1
Comparative factor	1.15
Comparative Birth rate	15.1
Still Birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	25.4
Crude Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	14.6
Comparative factor	0.76
Comparative Death rate	11.1
Death rate from Puerperal causes per 1,000 (live and still births)	Nil
Death rate of infants under one year of age :—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	26.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	27.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	38

CAUSES OF DEATH.

<i>Cause.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—
Syphilitic disease	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	2	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	14	11
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	—
Diabetes	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	11	24
Coronary disease, angina	28	18
Hypertension with heart disease	5	7
Other heart disease	13	19
Other circulatory disease	5	8
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	8	8
Bronchitis	4	2
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	4	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	6	20
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
All other accidents	9	4
Suicide	1	1
Other violent causes	—	1
All causes	123	135

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total cases notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to hospital</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
Measles	145	7	—
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	53	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	1	16*
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	18	—	—
Acute Inf. Encephalitis	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Paralytic Poliomyelitis Non Paralytic	—	—	—
Dysentery	2	—	—
Totals	224	8	16

* This figure includes certain types of Pneumonia which are not notifiable.

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal pyrexia	Pneumonia	Meningococcal Infection	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Acute Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 „ „ 3	—	—	—	—	—	9	2	—	—	—	—	1
3 „ „ 4	—	—	—	—	—	14	1	—	—	1	—	—
4 „ „ 5	—	—	—	1	—	18	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 „ „ 10	2	—	—	—	—	81	8	—	—	5	—	1
10 „ „ 15	—	—	—	1	—	9	2	—	—	4	—	—
15 „ „ 20	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	7	—	—
20 „ „ 35	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	18	—	—
35 „ „ 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—
45 „ „ 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	3	—	—	3	—	145	18	—	—	53	—	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.					Deaths.				
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Totals	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Totals
	Totals	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 „ „ 10	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 „ „ 15	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 „ „ 20	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 „ „ 25	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 „ „ 35	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 „ „ 45	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 „ „ 55	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55 „ „ 65	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Totals	*13	8	2	2	1	1	1	—	—	—

* Included in this total are three transfers from the mainland.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified.	Cases.		Vision un-impaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Death.
	Treated.					
	At home	In hospital				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

EAST WIGHT.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Public water supplies over the whole area are provided by the Isle of Wight Water Board—an Authority which is responsible for supplies to the whole Island.

There were one or two instances of shortage of water in the Bembridge camping area owing to the heavy demand made during the month of August but the supply position was better than in previous years.

Further complaints were received of the absence of a mains supply in the Hale Common area of Arreton, and although this matter has been before the Water Board, a supply has not yet been made available to this area.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Public conveniences are provided at Bembridge, Brading, Niton and Godshell. All public conveniences are small and are maintained by part-time attendants.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Main sewerage systems are provided in Apse Heath, Bembridge, Brading, Chillerton, Godshell, Niton and Whitwell.

BLACKGANG SEWERAGE.

The system of sewers for the Blackgang area continued to give rise to serious nuisance owing to discharge of sewage effluent into the watercourse that runs through the centre of the Chine. Following informal discussions with the Ministry, a scheme was prepared to remedy the trouble. This scheme consists of diverting the outfall of the present sewer, the construction of a new pumping station at the head of the Chine, a rising main, and gravity sewer discharging into a new purification works situated well to the west. Tenders have been invited for the construction of this system.

DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE.

Apse Heath - to small Purification Works.

Bembridge - to 2 outfalls - one at Ethel Point and the other at the mouth of the Harbour.

Ethel Point Outfall :

This outfall functioned quite well except at time of heavy rain when serious surcharging occurred. During the summer one complaint was received of sewage from this outfall being washed on to the beach.

Harbour Outfall :

This was kept in operation with very considerable difficulty and on two occasions became completely silted up.

Works of improvement to the Bembridge sewers was put in hand early in the year and consists of—

- 1) The construction of a pumping station at The Point, Bembridge ;
- 2) The laying of a rising main from the pumping station to discharge into the Ethel Point outfall ;
- 3) The closing off of the Harbour outfall ;
- 4) The enlarging of the Ethel Point main outfall and extension of the storm overflow.

Work on this scheme progressed throughout the year.

Brading - to Sewage Works.

Chillerton - to settlement tanks and land irrigation system. This system, although functioning without trouble, cannot be considered as meeting modern standards.

Godshill -	}	To disposal works.
Niton -		
Whitwell		

Small Sewage Disposal Plants are provided for a number of the Council's Housing Estates :—

The Bower, Newchurch

Langbridge, Newchurch

West View, Chale

Hazely Combe, Arreton

Pagham Place, Rookley

Merstone

Southview, Chale Green

St. George's View, Rookley

These small plants are desludged at intervals of 6—9 months and give rise to very little trouble.

Highwood Lane, Rookley :

A system of drainage serving a few cottages in Highwood Lane, Rookley, discharges into a settlement tank and thence by means of an effluent drain into a waterecourse. This effluent drain became choked and it was evident that it should be relaid. The Public Health Committee accepted this system as a sewer and gave instructions for the effluent drain to be relaid.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The refuse collection service continued to function in a satisfactory manner. The service covers the whole district. A weekly collection is given in Brading and Bembridge, and a fortnightly collection in all other parts of the district.

	<i>No. of Vehicles.</i>	<i>Total Mileage.</i>	<i>Disposal of Refuse.</i>
East Wight	One full-time in Bembridge and Brading One spends half time in East Wight, half time in West Wight	13,666	1. - Tip at Yaverland, Brading 2—Tip at Church Lane, Brading 3—Tip at Bleak-down, Godshill

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE.

East Wight.

The Council do not own a cesspool emptier but hire a machine when required from Ryde, Sandown or Ventnor. A routine service was not in operation but pits were emptied upon application;—

1. If they had not been emptied during the past twelve months.
2. If they were overflowing or likely to overflow in the near future.

Number of cesspits emptied (cost borne by rate charge)	...	...	...	...	...	230
Ditto (applicant bearing cost)	...	...	...	...	...	16

HOSTELS.

East Wight.

Y.H.A. Hostel, Whitwell. Main Water. Drainage to cesspool. Public refuse collection.

HUTTED CAMPS.

East Wight.

Nil.

HOUSING.

East Wight.

No new Council houses were completed during the year in East Wight.

Slum Clearance.

Number of houses reported as unfit and incapable of being made fit at a reasonable cost	...	...	11
Demolition orders made	...	...	1
Number of undertakings accepted from owners not to relet until house made fit	...	...	5
Number of occupiers rehoused	...	...	2
Number of houses made fit and re-occupied, on cancellation of undertaking	...	...	5

Improvement Grants.

The Rural District Council continued their policy of making Improvement Grants, and during the year 46 grants were approved.

The amount of grant involved was £10,073. (These figures relate to East and West Wight).

Assisted House Purchase and Loans to carry out repairs.

Owing to an increase in interest rates, the Council decided not to accept applications for loans for the purchase or construction of houses for a period of six months of the year. During the remaining period loans were made in respect of 28 properties, and the total amount paid in this respect was £33,350. (These figures relate to East and West Wight).

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS—CAMPING SITES.

Ten licences to use land as sites for moveable dwellings were issued, providing accommodation for approximately 700 caravans.

The main camping area in the East Wight is in Bembridge. One large site accommodating 250-300 caravans is provided with main water, main drainage, ample public conveniences and showers, and has shop and cafeteria situated upon it. In addition, this site has a large public hall, cinema and camp office. Caravans are owned by various individuals and let weekly throughout the season. This is a well run camp with good service.

One other large camp accommodating about 250 caravans and a number of tents is provided with main sewer, public convenience blocks, and water from stand pipes.

In addition to caravans, there are well over 1,000 members of the Boys' Brigade and other Youth Organisations who set up tented camps in the Bembridge area. There is a good spirit of co-operation between the camp organisers and the R.D.C. officials.

WORK OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

East Wight.

Total number of visits of inspection made	...	...	...	...	...	2044
Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	84
Houses re-inspected	...	...	...	...	...	166
Cowstables and dairies	...	...	...	...	...	12
Food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	...	271
Meat and other foods inspection	...	...	...	...	...	89
Drains and sewers	...	...	...	...	...	178
Water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	63
Refuse collection	...	...	...	...	...	207
Various	...	...	...	...	...	498
New buildings and alterations	...	...	...	...	...	476

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, Parts I and VIII administered by the District Council :

East Wight.

1. INSPECTIONS (Part I of the Act).

For purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	34	51	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	28	32	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	62	83	3	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>	
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ...	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective ...	2	2
Total	3	3

PART VIII OF THE ACT (Outwork—Sections 110 and 111).

Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The following table shows the amount of unsound food dealt with during the year :—

Home Killed Meat	...	...	...	—
Imported Meat	...	...	...	210 lb.
Canned Meat	...	...	...	185 lb.
Tinned Fruit	...	...	...	154 lb.
Tinned Eggs	...	...	...	—
Fish	...	...	...	—
Other Goods	...	...	...	—

WEST WIGHT.

WATER.

The rainfall for the year was 36.80 inches, and the average water consumption for the West Wight area was 499,587 gallons per day, compared with an average consumption for the previous year of 434,614 gallons per day.

106 samples of both treated and raw water supplies were examined, of which 61 per cent were classified as satisfactory.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Public conveniences are provided at Freshwater Bay, Freshwater (2), Totland, Colwell and at Alum Bay (by arrangement with the Needles Hotel).

All conveniences are well maintained by a full-time attendant.

New public conveniences are under construction at Totland Bay.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Main sewerage systems are provided at Freshwater, Totland, Colwell Bay and Yarmouth.

Most of the properties in Shorwell Village have been connected to the new sewerage system.

Disposal of Sewage—

- Freshwater :** 18in. diameter sea outfall at Norton, extending 700 feet out from shore.
- „ (Brambles and Monks area)—Military sewer sea outfall at Linstone Chine.
- Totland :** 12in. diameter sewer sea outfall discharging 450 feet from shore.
- Yarmouth :** Sea outfall discharging 500 feet from the shore near end of Yarmouth Pier.
- „ 6in. diameter sea outfall taking the drainage of three or four dwellings at the top of the High Street.
- Shorwell :** By settlement tanks and aeration beds.

Small Sewage Purification Plants.

There is a small sewage purification plant at Shalfleet taking the drainage of some twenty Council houses and private properties.

Small sewage purification plants are provided at Porchfield and Thorley housing estates, and there is a small sewage purification plant at Alum Bay dealing with the drainage of the Public Conveniences, the Needles Hotel and tea rooms.

Brook Village is drained by a private sewer from Lord Sherwood's Estate.

The main sewerage scheme for Brighstone Village is progressing satisfactorily and the Council has under consideration the sewerage of Calbourne Village.

The new Yarmouth sewer sea outfall discharges sewage some 500 feet away from the shore and the nuisance from the foul discharge near the entrance to the Harbour has been abated.

The military sewer sea outfall at Linstone Chine still discharges close to the shore and at a point much frequented by summer visitors. Protracted negotiations with the War Department remain abortive.

No major extensions have been made to the existing sewerage of the district although the number of new houses built for private ownership and for the Council has greatly increased: land development has tended to take place where public services already exist for reasons of economy or Town and Country Planning control.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

There is a weekly collection of refuse in the Parishes of Freshwater, Totland and Yarmouth, and a fortnightly collection in all other parishes in the West Wight. Refuse is deposited by controlled tipping on the land reclamation area on the east bank of the River Yar estuary at Yarmouth and at Churchill's Quarry.

	<i>No. of Vehicles</i>	<i>Refuse Collected, Cubic yds.</i>	<i>No. of Vehicle Loads</i>	<i>Total Mileage</i>	<i>Disposal of Refuse</i>
West Wight	One 18 cub. yd. used for Freshwater Totland, and Yar- mouth One other shared with East Wight	16,200 approx.	1,450	10,820	Yarmouth Land Reclamation Area and Churchill's Quarry

CESSPIT EMPTYING SERVICE.

Premises are served by a cesspool emptying lorry on hire from Ryde Borough and Ventnor U.D.C.

Total number of cesspits or septic tanks cleansed 123.

HOSTELS.

West Wight.

Weston Manor Hostel, Totland. Mains water supply, main drainage, weekly collection of refuse.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS—CAMPING SITES.

Solent Riviera Camping Site, Thorness (42 caravans). W.Cs. and wash basins to sewage disposal plant. Mains water supply. Refuse destroyed by incineration and periodically collected by Council's vehicle.

West Wight Country Club and Caravan Site, Totland (24 caravans). W.Cs. and wash basins, with drainage to Council's sewer. Mains water supply. Weekly collection of refuse.

Mountfield Caravan Park, Norton Green, Freshwater (30 caravans). W.Cs. and wash basins with drainage to Council's sewer. Mains water supply. Weekly collection of refuse.

Grange Chine, Brighstone (8 caravans). Mains water supply. Chemical closets. Fortnightly collection of refuse.

The Orchards, Newbridge (8 caravans). Mains water supply. Septic tank drainage. Fortnightly collection of refuse.

Compton Farm, Brook (12 caravans). Mains water supply. Toilet block with septic tank drainage. Fortnightly collection of refuse.

In addition to caravans, it is estimated that about 500 members of the Boys' Brigade and other Youth Organisations set up tented camps at Cliff End Fort, Freshwater, Totland Recreation Ground and at Norton.

HOUSING.

SCHEDULE.

Parish			Council Houses completed 1958	Under construction 31st December, 1958
Brighstone	...	...	—	—
Calbourne	...	...	—	—
Freshwater	...	...	14	—
Shalfleet ...	...	...	6	2
Shorwell	...	...	—	—
Totland ...	...	...	—	—
Yarmouth	...	...	—	—

Private houses erected in **East** and **West** Wight— 55.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

Two properties were closed in accordance with undertakings given by the owners not to re-let until the premises had been made fit.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS AND HOUSE PURCHASE LOANS.

The Council has been active in assisting property owners to instal bathrooms, water closets, hot water supplies, electricity and generally to make happier and healthier home conditions. It is regrettable that so few landlords are able to come to a satisfactory agreement with their tenants whereby these improvements could be made, but the number of owner-occupiers with a modest income who have been helped is very satisfactory. The help has been twofold to those families who have bought small houses with a loan from the Council, have been given an Improvement grant and also an additional loan to cover their cost of the improvement and repairs.

The Council, too, has taken advantage of the Improvement Grant Scheme in the form of a subsidy for the reconditioning of unfit houses purchased by the Council. (*See photographs of Nos. 4, 5, 6 and 7, High Street, Freshwater.*)



Nos. 4 and 5, Hill Top Cottages, High Street, Freshwater,
prior to reconditioning. View from front.



Nos. 4 and 5, Hill Top Cottages, High Street, Freshwater,
after reconditioning. View from front.



Nos. 4 and 5, Hill Top Cottages, High Street, Freshwater,
prior to reconditioning. View from rear.



Nos. 4 and 5, Hill Top Cottages, High Street, Freshwater,
after reconditioning. View from rear.



Nos. 6 and 7, Hill Top Cottages, High Street, Freshwater,
prior to reconditioning. View from rear.



Nos. 6 and 7, Hill Top Cottages, High Street, Freshwater,
after reconditioning. View from rear.

HYGIENE OF FOOD PREMISES :

An increasing awareness that cleanliness has a positive sales value is noticeable in many of the retail shops and some notable reconstruction of butchers' premises has been made.

Some "village pubs" have been altered to give more hygienic conditions behind the bar and better lavatory accommodation for patrons. By all means let Hygiene come to the bar but not to destroy its snug atmosphere.

WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

West Wight.

Total number of visits of inspection made	...	...	2128
Houses inspected	...	...	115
Houses re-inspected	...	...	300
Cowstables and dairies	...	...	6
Food preparing premises	...	...	98
Meat and other foods inspection	...	...	32
Drains and sewers	...	...	320
Water supplies	...	...	12
Refuse collection	...	...	285
Various	...	...	360
New buildings and alterations	...	...	600

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, Parts I and VIII administered by the District Council.

West Wight.

1. INSPECTIONS (Part I of the Act).

For purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	63	15	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	25	2	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	88	17	3	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>No of cases in which defects were found</i>	
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	1	1
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—
Sanitary conveniences unsuitable or defective (S.7)	2	1
Total	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>

PART VIII OF THE ACT (Outwork—Sections 110 and 111).

Number of out-workers—25.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The following table shows the amount of unsound food dealt with during the year :—

Imported Meat	...	...	...	...	26 lb.
Canned Meat	...	...	...	...	242 lb.
Other Goods	...	...	..	...	232 lb.

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACTS,
1944.

Number of samples taken for T.B. during the year						
1958	...	...	...	...	...	230
Number of samples found to be positive				...	...	—
Number of samples in which <i>Brucella Abortus</i> was						
isolated	...	...	...	...	...	23

